Optimal Charging: Public Charging Joined Up

A closed-door delivery and procurement framework briefing for senior public charging leaders driving infrastructure at scale

15 October 2026 | London Museum Docklands
https://leadersorfollowers-thenextone.com/public/

The Day is Chaired and Moderated by:

Paul Gambrell, Chair, Optimal Charging: Public Charging Joined Up, Independent EV Infrastructure & Energy Integration Adviser, Former Lead, Zero Emission Vehicles & Energy Integration, Oxfordshire County Council

7.30 – 8.30 *Partner showcase space set up*

8.00 - 8.50 *Registration & Networking refreshments + 1-2-1 Pre-booked Meetings*

08:50 – 09:00 Opening Welcome and Remarks - Organiser, Chair Welcome

09:00 – 09:25 Fireside Chat: The Transition to Delivery - From EV Strategy to Street

2026 marks a turning point for local authorities in the UK EV landscape. The shift from strategic planning to tangible deployment is well underway. This opening session brings together UK and international leadership to explore a fundamental challenge: How do we move from deploying chargers to coordinating a system deployment?

In conversation with:
Sture Portvik, Project Leader in Electric Mobility, City of Oslo

09:25 – 10:00 Session 1: Electrifying Car Parks and Communal Charging at Scale – Delivering EV Infrastructure for Shared and Residential Spaces

Delivery Partner: Zaptec

With 37% of UK households lacking off-street parking, equitable EV access is critical. Car parks are the frontline of public charging delivery. Yet they remain one of the hardest environments to deploy at scale due to power constraints, ownership complexity, and unclear commercial models. This session tackles the persistent challenge of delivering infrastructure for flats, housing estates, and new developments.

Speakers:
Jane Russell, EV Project Manager, Enfield Council

In Partnership with:

Technical Delivery Partners:

George New, Head of UK Partnerships (Energy and Strategy), Zaptec

10:00 – 10:45 Session 2: Planning into Practice – How Local Authorities are Delivering EV Infrastructure

Delivery Partner:

This session will showcase success stories, common stumbling blocks, and how councils are managing their supplier relationships, project delays, evolving community needs and make sense of the vast amount of data flooding from EV charging.

Speakers:
Tony Clayton, EV Infrastructure Programme Manager, Transport for Wales
Daniel Gosbee, Principal Project Officer, Lincolnshire County Council
Mohammed Chibou, Electric Vehicle Charging Project Manager, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Mark Daly, Senior Project Officer for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) program, Derbyshire County Council
Fred Le Ballois, Commercial General Manager, TotalEnergies Charging Solutions UK

10:45 – 11:15 Networking refreshment break (30 mins) + 1-2-1 Pre-booked Meetings

11:15 – 12:00 Roundtable Discussions

Roundtable Discussions:

Informal, interactive and informative round-table discussions run in parallel – all participants to join their table of interest.

Roundtable Topics & Leaders:

1. Practical Lessons from Oslo's Charging Ecosystem - coordinating a Mature Public Charging Ecosystem - **Sture Portvik, Project Leader in Electric Mobility, City of Oslo**
2. Using Data, Scale and Regional Coordination to Build Public Charging Efficiently – Lessons from the metropolitan region of Amsterdam - **Bart-Jan Merkx, Contract Manager, Laadwerk**
3. After the Contract Is Signed: How Councils Build the Team and Internal Support to Deliver LEVI at Scale - **Constant McColl, Group Manager Strategic Transportation and Future Mobilities, Hackney Council**
4. When Public Charging Doesn't Stack Up – Rethinking Viability, Risk & Delivery Assumptions - **Helena Driffill-Agar, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Team, North Yorkshire Council**
5. Cenex Blueprint for Cable Channels - **Jacob Roberts, Senior Policy & Strategy Consultant, Cenex**
6. Beyond the Concession Model: How Councils Are Leasing Their Way to Privately Funded EV Charging - **Mark Wheeler. Consultant - Public Sector Lead, Hertford Birch**

   Grant funding has driven all of local government's public EV charging progress to date, but that model is ending, leaving two distinct challenges, and, as we will see, opportunities, behind.

   First, the sites grant funding was never focused on: DC charging, whether on-street, in car parks, park and rides, leisure centres, or on spare land. Second, what to do with the EV infrastructure already installed under grant-funded contracts that are now ending, legacy chargers left abandoned or underperforming by the CPOs that installed them. Both represent a largely untapped commercial opportunity: land and infrastructure the council already owns, capable of generating substantial rental

income at no capital cost, once compliantly brought to market.

We will look at how councils can compliantly procure 100% privately funded EV infrastructure, what officer time this will take, and at what cost to the council, and at the opportunity these two challenges represent to deliver the council very significant revenue indeed. Taking lessons learned from the private sector, we will showcase how EV infrastructure can be delivered at speed, and at significant commercial benefit to the landowner.

Hertford Birch will explore these questions. We'll cover how procurement-compliant Lease and Licence structures unlock these sites, and how the private sector and councils alike are moving away from the concession-based model mandatory for grant-supported procurement, and back toward how councils have leased land to commercial occupiers for the last 50+ years.

12:00 – 12:35 Roundtable Plenary Debrief + Questions from the Floor

12:35 – 13:20 Session 3: Contract Management, Delivery Oversight and CPO Relationships – Who Owns the outcome

Delivery Partner:

AMPECO

As contracts go live, delivery becomes the challenge. How do councils ensure suppliers deliver as promised? This panel will address contract structure, service level agreements, enforcement, and ensuring delivery matches the strategy.

Speakers:
Amy Rushton, Senior Project Manager Growth, Highways & Infrastructure, Suffolk County Council
Michael Dodds, Head of Transport Contracts, North East Combined Authority
Bart-Jan Merkx, Contract Manager, Laadwerk
Constant McColl, Group Manager Strategic Transportation and Future Mobilities, Hackney Council
AMPECO (Partner representative TBC)

13:20 – 14:10 Networking Lunch (50 mins) + 1-2-1 Pre-booked Meetings

Speaking Showcase from:

1. **Siemens eMobility Charging**
2. **Last Mile Infrastructure Group**
3. **Oxford Direct Services**

14:10 – 14:45 Session 4: Accelerating Grid Connections through Better LA - DNO Coordination

Delivery Partner:

quello

Grid access is often the single biggest barrier to charger deployment. Hear from councils and DNOs on how to speed up processes, where Local Area Energy Plans are helping, and what still needs national regulatory reform.

Speakers:

Martin Hale, Managing Director, Qwello UK
George Christodoulakis, Net Zero Programme Manager, UK Power Networks

14:45 – 15:00 Keynote Address: Lessons from Amsterdam – Contract Management at Scale

Insights from a mature EV ecosystem with over 10,000 public chargers and a deep public-private deployment model.

Keynote Speaker:
Bart-Jan Merkx, Contract Manager, Laadwerk

15:00 – 15:45 Session 5: Financing EV Infrastructure – Building Commercially Viable Networks Beyond LEVI.

As public funds tighten, councils must innovate to blend grants, concession models and commercial capital. This session presents hybrid financing models and risk sharing for long-term sustainability. What public charging infrastructure is commercially viable, scalable and at what utilisation rate and why are car park charging projects still hard to finance at scale?

Opening Presentation by Adam Healy, Partner, Roland Berger

Speakers:
Adam Healy, Partner, Roland Berger
Jamie Dunsmore, Head of Low Carbon Fleets & Infrastructure, Transport Scotland
Paul Bragg, Head of Network and Infrastructure – Street Scene, London Borough of Barnet

15:45 – 16:15 Fireside Chat: Cross Pavement & Cable Channel Solutions – Are We Nearly There Yet?

Cross pavement charging remains the missing piece of the puzzle for millions of households without off-street **parking. The fireside chat will share outcomes from national trials and address legal considerations and how to scale successful models.**

Speakers:
Helena Driffill-Agar, Acting Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Officer, North Yorkshire Council
Jacob Roberts, Senior Policy & Strategy Consultant, Cenex
Gareth Warner, LEVI Project Lead & Project Manager, Portsmouth City Council

16:15 – 16:20 Chair's Closing Address

16:20 – 17:00 Networking Refreshments (40mins) + 1-2-1 Pre-booked Meetings

17:00 End of Day